

BOOK REVIEWS

Common Skin Diseases. By A. C. Roxburgh. 10th ed., 1955. Pp. xxxii + 516, 8 col. pl., 215 illus. H. K. Lewis, London. (30s.)

This is the tenth edition of "Common Skin Diseases" since it was first published over 20 years ago. What better testimony could there be to the well-deserved popularity of this work among both students and practitioners. This edition includes an admirable summing-up of the essentials of most of the advances of recent years in technique and treatment, and yet the book has not become unwieldy. Dr. Roxburgh was an expert in the art of sifting the wheat from the chaff and the result is a really practical and concise handbook. Most useful sections are added on the uses in dermatology of ACTH and cortisone, the more recent antibiotics, and particularly on the recent work on the lupus erythematosus phenomenon and lupus erythematosus cells. The use of Isoniazid in lupus vulgaris, Mepacrine in lupus erythematosus, and Ammi Majus derivations in vitiligo are the subjects of additional brief paragraphs.

The section devoted to venereology is of necessity brief and not intended to be comprehensive. The cutaneous manifestations of syphilis are particularly well dealt with and, both here and, indeed, throughout the whole book, the illustrations are excellent. The statement that 90 per cent. of genital sores (where the question of syphilis may arise) are syphilitic, is now misleading, at least in Britain. Chancroid indeed is a rarity, but the common genital sores of septic herpes and the septic subpreputial erosions in balanoposthitis are omitted. A brief account of dark-ground technique in diagnosis could usefully be included.

This book harvests the fruits of a lifetime's personal experience and the death of Dr. A. C. Roxburgh, following so soon after his personal revision of this edition, leaves a gap which will indeed be difficult to fill.

A. J. G.

Diseases of the Mouth. (Dermatologie der Mundhöhle und der Mundumgebung.) By A. Greither, with a foreword by Prof. W. Schönfeld. 1955. Pp. 262, 191 illus. Georg Thieme, Stuttgart: (DM. 39.60.)

The short English title has been chosen because it seems impossible to translate literally the title of this book which, being intended for the use of the dermatologist, the physician, the ear-nose-throat surgeon, and

the dental surgeon, deals with every conceivable condition which may occur in the mouth and on the adjacent parts of the face. According to the foreword it is the first time that such a monograph has been published in German. Throughout the book emphasis is laid on morphology and diagnosis; treatment is mentioned only in those sections which belong to the proper domain of the dermatologist (and venereologist). The numerous photographs are all of a very high standard; they have been taken, with a few exceptions, at the University Clinic in Heidelberg.

The venereal diseases are discussed in the section which deals with the "specific infections". The possibility of a gonorrhoeic infection of the mouth is rejected, but the possibility—albeit an extremely rare one—of the occurrence of an ulcer molle or a granuloma inguinale on the tongue or on the lips is admitted. Lymphogranuloma inguinale can cause, also very rarely, a stomatitis or an angina.* The syphilitic lesions are described in detail and are extremely well illustrated but the lesions caused by other treponematoses are only briefly mentioned. The large number of references contributes greatly to the usefulness of the book.

A. F.

* Malfatti, G. (1948). *Oto-rino-laring. ital.*, 17, 63.

A History of Dermatology in Philadelphia. By Reuben Friedman. 1955. Pp. 556, 137 illus. Froben Press, Inc., Florida. (\$10).

This book falls naturally into three periods: up to 1870, when Louis A. Duhring started consultant practice after 2 years of post-graduate study in Europe; the Duhring period 1870 to 1910; and the period after Duhring. The pioneer work of Duhring and Shoemaker has been ably maintained and expanded by successive groups of brilliant dermatological disciples of the old masters, and for many years the reputation of Philadelphia, particularly as a centre for dermatological research and post-graduate training, has been a proud one. The present book by Dr. Friedman is unusual but interesting. It is part biography and part an historical record, being illustrated not only by photographs of dermatologists but by facsimile reproductions of documents and extracts of historic interest. Dermatologists in Britain should enjoy the whole book, while venereologists will find the period of John H. Stokes, 1924 onwards, particularly informative.

S. M. L.

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